



Intro: Christmas is a time to REMEMBER. Our Christmas tree has ornaments that we have collected throughout the years. Each has a memory associated with it. Each ornament helps us to remember!

Psalm 103:1-3 “1 Bless the Lord, O my soul; And all that is within me, *bless* His holy name! 2 Bless the Lord, O my soul, And forget not all His benefits: 3 Who forgives all your iniquities, Who heals all your diseases,”

Bless = Heb. “barak” = “to kneel in adoration and praise and declare blessing”

Let every once of our being worship HIM and declare his greatness.

Forget not = Heb. “al sakah” = don’t forget, ignore or cease to care”

REMEMBER...

Maybe on our tree this year there are some ornaments we need to help us remember what the season of Christmas is really about. Some ornaments that help us remember his benefits.

His Benefits

Benefit = Heb. “gmul” (ghem-ool) = dealings, recompense, that which He has given.”

What are some of the benefits, those things which God has given us this Christmas that we are supposed to remember?

Vs. 3 His Forgiveness (Baby Asher Star Ornament)

“Who forgives all your iniquities...”

This ornament reminds us of our 1st born’s Christmas

This first thing we must remember this Christmas is that God gave Jesus His only begotten son, His firstborn, to provide **forgiveness** to us for our sin!

John 3:16-17 “For God so loved the world that He gave His only begotten Son, that whoever believes in Him should not perish but have everlasting life. 17 For God did not send His Son into the world to condemn the world, but that the world through Him might be saved.”

1 John 1:9 “If we confess our sins, He is faithful and just to forgive us *our* sins and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness

Forgives = Heb. = “salach” (sah-lahch) = pardon, spare someone, to relieve someone the burden of their offense.

The benefit of Jesus’ birth is that through Him we don’t have to live under the burden, guilt and shame of sin.

Isaiah 53:5 “But He was wounded for our transgressions, He was bruised for our iniquities; The chastisement for our peace was upon Him,

He took this upon himself in our place to provide us the benefit of forgiveness!

He is the fulfillment to the first prophecy that God spoke on the heels of Adam’s sin.

Genesis 3:15 “And I will put enmity between you and the woman, and between your seed and her Seed; He shall bruise your head and you shall bruise His heel.”

Vs. 3 His Healing (Constance Braces ornament)

“...Who heals all your diseases,”

This ornament reminds us of when Constance got her braces off. She was the last of all four kids who had braces. I shoulda bought stock in Prairie Ridge Orthodontics!

The second thing we must remember this Christmas is that God gave us the gift of His Son to not only forgive us, but to **heal** us! To restore us and make us whole.

Heals = Heb. “rapa” (raw-faw) = to heal, make healthy, restore favor

Jesus was born that we might also have healing for every sickness, disease and malady.

Isaiah 53:5 “But He was wounded for our transgressions, He was bruised for our iniquities; The chastisement for our peace was upon Him,...And by His stripes we are healed.

Psalms 107:20 “He sent his word and healed them and delivered them from their destructions.”

Vs 4 Redemption, Bulldog ornament

“Who redeems your life from destruction...”

Our first bulldog was named Diesel. We adopted him at the age of two when his owner died. I used to say, “I saved you from the sausage factory!” I redeemed his life from destruction!

In Christ we have redemption! We have been redeemed (bought back) from the enemy. Bought back and saved from destruction.

Colossians 1:13-14 “He has delivered us from the power of darkness and conveyed us into the kingdom of the Son of His love, 14 in whom we have redemption through His blood, the forgiveness of sins.”

Conclusion: What’s on your tree? Is your tree just a pretty decoration or does it call you to remember The Benefits of Jesus?